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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Extraordinary Port Regulations at Constanta During
Youth Festival/Local Reaction.PLACE ACQUIRED
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"The crews of foreign vessels passing through the Rumanian port of Constanta found themselves stymied by considerable red tape before they could go ashore in the city. This was due to the extraordinary security precautions taken during the time of the World Festival of Youth for Peace and Friendship. The docks and port installations were full of agents in civilian dress. The number of militiamen and Securitate agents on duty had been doubled or tripled, and they suddenly would demand to see everyone's papers. This control applied not only to crews from Western and non-Orbit vessels, but also to crews of Bulgarian, Hungarian, even of Polish and Finnish vessels. It seems that Soviet vessels alone were exempt from this special control.

2. "The Bulgarian and Hungarian sailors had to comply with new regulations before they could enter the city. A list had to be prepared of all those who wanted to go ashore (this as well as the usual list of crew members normally presented to the port authorities). The ship's commissar who is the most reliable Communist aboard had to vouch for each individual: his identity, his origin, that he had no contacts in Mediterranean ports with the Imperialists, his personal funds. After each investigation an individual written permission was issued for the morning or the afternoon. Often in the city itself uniformed agents demanded to see these permits and questioned the sailors. This treatment was even afforded sailors from the People's Democracies during the time of the Festival of Peace and Friendship. They were hindered in every possible way from taking their usual excursions in the city.

3. "When an Hungarian sailor went ashore in Constanta on [REDACTED] to visit the city, he asked a local person his reaction to the Youth Festival. This was the Rumanian's reply:

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"This Festival is not for us. It is not for the Rumanian people. It has been organized as propaganda. All this that you see today in the shop windows and food stores is a complete bluff. They are bulging with meat, sausages, cooking oil, sugar, vegetables, etc. But for us, these goods have exorbitant prices. They have been displayed for the young visitors from free countries - who can buy at reduced prices, upon orders of the Party. You should have seen these windows before the Festival: Empty. There was no meat. My family has not eaten meat for two months. The people are starved. Look how thin and weak I am. A few days before the Festival the authorities brought in various goods and filled the State stores. Everything will disappear after the Festival. It is all an enormous deception. But the young people "from the four corners of the World" don't realize the truth and will certainly speak favorably abroad of the people's regime. I see that you also are a foreigner. I implore you to tell the free world that we in Rumania are suffering from hunger and that they continually lie in our country to cover up the truth."

- end -

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